

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 3, 4, 9 and 11-16 have been cancelled without prejudice, Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended to overcome a rejection thereto, Claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form, and Claims 17-19 have been added. Favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Request to Consider and Enter Information Disclosure Statement

On January 24, 2005, Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement with the required certification. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the art cited therein and initial and return the Information Disclosure Citation that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement, indicating the Examiner's consideration of the documents cited therein.

Substantive Rejection

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 2001-066969.

Response to Substantive Rejection

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 3, 4, 9, and 11-16 have been cancelled herein without prejudice and a paragraph concerning the projecting portion

has been added to independent Claims 1, 5, and 7. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a process cartridge detachably mountable to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus having a guide member. The process cartridge comprises a cartridge frame, an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a process unit acting on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and a projecting portion in the cartridge frame. When the process cartridge is mounted to the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the projecting portion is guided by the guide member to guide the process cartridge in a mounting direction in which the process cartridge is mounted to the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus. When the process cartridge is mounted to the main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus which conforms to functions of the process cartridge, the projecting portion allows the process cartridge to be inserted in the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus that conforms to the functions of the process cartridge. When the process cartridge is mounted to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus which does not conform to the functions of the process cartridge and has different functions, the projecting portion abuts against a main body frame in the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus having the different functions to prevent mounting of the process cartridge.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the projecting portion is provided so as to project downward from the cartridge frame, and when the process cartridge is withdrawn from the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to be mounted on a mounting surface, the projecting portion maintains a stable posture of the process cartridge. Support for this

amendment is found at least at page 13, line 27 through page 14, line 4; page 17, lines 18-24; and page 24, lines 19-27 of the specification.

By this arrangement, the projecting portion 1) guides the process cartridge in the mounting direction, 2) maintains a stable posture of the process cartridge when the cartridge is withdrawn from the main body of the image forming apparatus to be mounted on a mounting surface, and 3) prevents the cartridge from being mounted to a main body of an apparatus having different functions from the cartridge.

In contrast, Japanese Document No. 2001-066969 is understood to disclose in Figure 4 and in paragraph 0029 that: “a cartridge insertion opening 26 is a gateway of a process cartridge 15 into or out of a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus C. In this example, the cartridge insertion opening 26 has a shape following a rectangular solid of the process cartridge 15. However, the cartridge insertion opening 26 is not limited to the above shape if the cartridge insertion opening 26 has a shape through which the process cartridge 15 can be passed”. But this document is not understood to disclose or suggest a projecting portion performing the three functions noted above, as recited by amended Claim 1.

For this reason, amended Claim 1 is understood to be allowable over this document. And because independent Claims 5 and 7 have been amended in a similar manner, these claims are allowable for similar reasons.

New independent Claim 17 relates to a process cartridge detachably mountable to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus having a guide member. The process cartridge comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a developing roller configured and positioned to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the electrophotographic

photosensitive drum, a cleaning frame configured and positioned to support the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, a toner development frame configured and positioned to support the developing roller, and a holder member which is provided at one longitudinal end of the process cartridge and connects the cleaning frame and the toner development frame.

The holder member has a projecting portion. When the process cartridge is withdrawn from the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to be mounted on a mounting surface, the projecting portion maintains a stable posture of the process cartridge.

When the process cartridge is mounted to the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the projecting portion is guided by the guide member to guide the process cartridge. When the process cartridge is mounted to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus which does not conform to the functions of the process cartridge and has different functions therefrom, the projecting portion abuts against a main body frame provided in the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus having different functions at a position such that an open/close cover, which closes an opening provided in the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus having different functions, cannot close, to prevent the process cartridge from being inserted into the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus having different functions. Support for the newly recited features of Claim 17 is found at least at pages 19-26 of the specification.

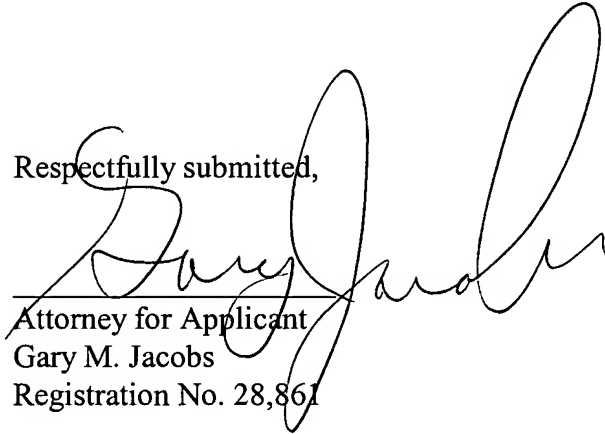
Claim 17 is understood to be allowable over Japanese Document No. 2001-066969 because this document is not understood to disclose or suggest the projecting portion recited by Claim 17. And because independent Claim 19 recites similar features, it is understood to be allowable for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are understood to be allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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